

To Correspondents.
H. J. C. Lafayette. Will attend to your request, should we learn anything in the premises.

Railroads and Common Roads.

Having lately travelled over several hundred miles of railroad from West to East and back, going over many of the most important eastern lines two or three times, and paying some attention to their construction and management, chiefly for the benefit of our people at home, our readers will pardon us if we occasionally give them our notions on the subject. They may be somewhat *biased* by the desultory character of our observations; but as most people dislike to read long essays, that dislike must suggest any apology which might otherwise be proper on our part.

One fact struck our minds with some force, while stopping a day or two in the interior of Massachusetts along the line of railroad from Springfield to Boston,—and that was, the zeal and industry with which the people were making new common roads leading from towns in the neighborhood of the railroad. The country is already intersected by so many roads as to give it somewhat the aspect of a checker-board; nevertheless, where a mile or two in distance can be gained, or a better road secured by a new route, it is immediately made. This is done too, at the expense of the towns or townships immediately interested,—and that is not small, for many of the roads are made in the very best and most permanent manner, and are quite equal, when completed, to ordinary Macadamized turnpikes. The expense is defrayed by taxation of the inhabitants of the towns, voted by the majority, under a statutory provision. It is in some instances very heavy; but the people stand it and willingly pay twenty to forty cents on the hundred dollars additional taxes with the certainty of getting it back in the way of improvement in the roads, and the consequent facility and comparative ease and cheapness of communication.

Our people just now are very zealous in favor of more railroads, especially in this neighborhood, where nearly all are astonished at the remarkable effects produced by the recent completion of the Madison and Indianapolis line. That is all right. We need more railroads, especially some eligible outlet northward, so that we can reach New York next year, by way of the New York and Erie railroad, in three days. The country too, from here westward, through Illinois to St. Louis, needs, and will pay well for a road. We must in time also have a direct eastern route, either to Cincinnati, Wheeling or Pittsburgh. Within ten years, every one of the lines here indicated, will be built. But that consummation will be delayed or hastened just in proportion as we divide or concentrate our efforts in their favor. We need not say that we believe in well digested plans and united concentrated effort. This is the more necessary, because we have no surplus capital, and because what little we have must needs be kept in active business to be productive. Every man of enlarged views and who understands any thing of the philosophy of business, must be satisfied on a moment's reflection, that if we can secure the construction of the main stems, lateral and collateral branches of roads will be sure to follow wherever they may be needed. Upon this principle all the railroads of New England have been constructed, though perhaps no system was originally propounded. It is the simple principle of common interest, common prudence, and common sense. If these principles had been applied in the case of the Madison and Indianapolis railroad, it would have been completed years ago; and instead of being a burden to the State, and literally begging its way along, would have brought to the pockets of our people hundreds of thousands of dollars. Nor is that road, and the causes which delayed its completion so long that almost every body finally lost all faith in its completion, until it ultimately reached us, and then were as much astonished as Rip Van Winkle is supposed to have been at the appearance of the first steamboat on the Hudson,—nor is this road, we say, the only example of capital and energy ill-applied. A few years ago, for instance, a charter was procured from the Ohio legislature, to build the Madison river railroad from Sandusky to Dayton. They dallied away their time and limited means for awhile, unable to complete the work, and many despaired of its completion. Meantime, another work, the Miami railroad was projected, from Cincinnati to Xenia, we believe. It was profitable, and pushed itself along until it reached Springfield. The managers of the Madison river railroad, having no other alternative, changed their original scheme, and instead of trying to carry their road to Dayton, altered the line so as to meet and intersect the Miami road at Springfield, which was to be at last done by eastern capital. Dayton, therefore, one of the finest and most enterprising towns in the West neither has the advantages of the road, nor can give to it the benefits of its own increasing trade. Would it not have been far better in the beginning, to have united the capital and enterprise of Cincinnati, Dayton and northern Ohio in a road starting from Cincinnati, and going north through Dayton? If that had been done, it would have been comparatively easy for us to have made a connexion with them at Dayton, whence we should have had a northern and southern route eastward. It is comprehensive ideas of this kind, which we wish to inculcate, because we believe that they will lead to results best for all concerned, no matter who or where they may be, nor the peculiar character of the interests they may have at stake.

But we are unconsciously occupying too much space about railroads here. We meant when we began merely to write a dozen lines or so, urging the propriety—and indeed the necessity of not neglecting the great common road interest in our renewed zeal for railroads. These the true interests of the great body of the people require as much as they do railroads. If they cannot suffer direct and general taxation for the purpose, some judicious and well-digested general law for the establishment of turnpike companies, would perhaps be the next best thing to be done.

We hope that some one, better versed in the details of such matters than we are, will take this subject into consideration, and give the people some instruction upon it.

The whig papers are quoting the false statement of the Louisville Journal, that Lynn Boyd's district, in Kentucky, furnished no company for the two regiments of volunteers under the late requisition. That district, says the Louisville Democrat, furnished two companies, that were accepted, and are now in camp at Smithland, besides four or five other companies that were not accepted. The editor of the Journal has known, for several days, that the statement he made is false, but yet has not made the correction.

GEORGIA ELECTION.—The Macon Telegraph says: Parties in the Legislature are closely balanced—too closely for the comfort of either party—there being two or three members returned, about which there is great doubt with which party they will act—probably not uniformly with either on questions of a strictly party character.

Deep-seated have been received in Washington from Commodore BRIDGES, dated on board the line-of-battle ship *Columbus*, on the 10th of April last, giving an account of the seizure by the squadron, of a British merchant vessel, of light tonnage, freighted with merchandise for an English merchant resident in Mexico.

The Indiana Sentinel.

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More Territory.

The following extract of a letter from Gen. Taylor for the Presidency increase in all parts of the country. In Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Maryland and many other States, various public meetings have lately been held expressing the people's preference for the old hero over all other candidates. So far as any demonstration has been made, it is certain that Gen. Taylor is far the most prominent among the whig candidates for the office of President. And we need scarcely add our deep seated conviction that he is the only man we could oppose to a locofoco nomination who would make a clean sweep of the "political managers" that have used the power of the government to subvert their "vile purposes"—even to the extension of the only public moral and political evil of which we complain.—*Ind. Jour.* Oct. 22d.

That is a curious paragraph, take it all round. It is curious for the belief expressed about the increase of the "demonstrations" in favor of Gen. Taylor for the Presidency,—while the contrary is believed to be the fact by every observing man. Why, we have travelled more than four thousand miles, over the most populous routes in the country, within the last two months, and did not see one man who talked as zealously about Gen. Taylor, as our neighbor does. The truth is, the people on neither side are yet quite ready to be nose-led in favor of any man. Their attention is occupied by events and not by men, and so will continue for the present, let the little squads of wire-pullers and office-seekers scheme and plot as they may.

But the Journal makes a confession worthy of some note, when it admits its belief that Taylor is the only man the whigs can elect, if indeed they can elect anybody, which we do not believe. This belief affords for the attitude of the Journal. It would prefer Corwin, or Webster, or any of the abolition-federalists to Taylor; but it confesses its belief that none but Taylor can be elected, and it supports him therefore in the firm conviction that through him alone can the whigs reach the "spoils." Suppose he should be elected, and should *Taylorize* them? They would have the offices, at least, and that would be some consolation.

Perhaps the most curious part of the Journal's paragraph is its concluding allusion "to the extension of the only public moral and political evil of which it complains." What can our neighbor mean by this? The "only evil?" That means slavery, we suppose. But is that the only evil of which it complains against the present administration? It would seem so; and if so, we have some hopes yet of our neighbor's returning reason. It is willing to sink all its old issues, and to acknowledge that the democrats have been right as to the bank, tariff, sub-treasury, internal improvements, &c. &c. It will willingly give the cold shoulder to all these, and run with Gen. Taylor upon the new issue of "no more territory," and consequently of no further "extension of the only evil of which it complains!"

Is not the Journal's position, as here developed, curious indeed? We think so.

We learn, by the last arrival from Mexico, that the women are calling for fire arms with which to repel the invaders of their soil in numbers greater than can be supplied. If this be true, it shows with what determination they intend defending their homes. How humiliating to American chivalry, to be compelled to meet in deadly conflict, an army thus equipped, fighting for all that can be dear to them.—*Indiana Journal*, Oct. 22.

The Journal has no occasion slip which gives it a chance to lampoon, label and disgrace our side, and to express its sympathy for the enemy. The women alluded to, were galled and scared by the stories told by their knavish leaders, and by the paragraphs against our soldiers, which the Mexican papers copied from American whig journals. They have already discovered that they have been imposed upon; and at the last accounts from the city of Mexico, those very women had thrown aside their fire-arms, and were promenade the streets upon the arms of our gallant soldiers. So the "chivalry" of the Journal need no longer feel "humiliation" for the dear women of Mexico. Our soldiers will take better care of them than their lousy husbands were ever able or willing to do.

Why don't the editors of the Journal, instead of merely talking in favor of the Mexicans in that paper, go to Mexico at once and enlist in Riley's foreign regiment? Riley unfortunately escaped hanging on account of the early period of his desertion; and with the marks of the lashes on his back, would make an appropriate commander for a regiment of Mexican whig editors.

GEN. SCOTT'S FORCE.—The Washington Union contains an official statement of the force composing, and on the way to join General Scott's column. The amount of reinforcements ordered upon that route since the 14th of July, is 17,891 men. Gen. Scott's present force, after deducting all his losses, is about 13,000,—so that in thirty days more, the entire force upon the main line, will amount to over 30,000 effective troops.

The New York Journal of Commerce says: If the democrats of this State do not get well whipped at the approaching election, it will not be for the want of the proper means being used. The two factions are about equal in numbers, and in bitterness towards each other. Either is apparently more hostile to the other than to their common enemy the whigs. The Barnburners are to hold a Convention at Herkimer on the 26th inst., to nominate State officers, &c., disavowing the nominations recently made. A house divided against itself cannot stand.

The sweeping republican majority in Pennsylvania surpasses our recent victory in any other State. It overwhelms all opposition. The Harrisburgh Democratic Union of Wednesday last, reports Gov. Shunk's majority over Irvin at 18,104, and one county (Elk) yet to be heard from.

The "National Liberty Convention," recently held at Buffalo, nominated JOHN P. HALE of New Hampshire for President of the United States, and LEICESTER KING of Ohio for Vice President. It also passed a series of resolutions, re-affirming the known views and principles of the Liberty party.

MAINE.—The fifth trial to elect a representative in August, came off on Monday week. RUEL WILLIAMS, the democratic candidate, was chosen by a majority of 291. The town was represented last year by a whig.

The Providence Herald says that the whigs in Congress may do as they did last year—delay reinforcements and supplies till the last moment of the session, but they dare not vote No on the question of sustaining our army in Mexico. We think so.

Indiana University.

The last mail brought us the "Seventeenth Annual Circular of the University of Indiana, comprising the catalogue," &c. By which we learn that the number of students in the several classes was 163,—a number which evinces the prosperity of the institution. The circular contains some other particulars of public interest which we shall hereafter note.

By the same mail we also received a copy of the Baccalaureate, addressed to the students of the senior class, at the late commencement, by ANDREW WELLS, D. D., the President of the University. We have hastily run over the pages of this address, and with more than ordinary interest, as it touches topics in that spirit of practical philosophy so uncommon in addresses of the kind, but much in accordance with our own ideas of propriety and usefulness. We should not perhaps, fully subscribe to every sentiment expressed in this address, nor have we time at this moment to specify points of difference: they are of secondary importance, however, and we are quite willing to give our readers copious extracts, leaving them to the exercise of untrammelled judgment as to the doctrines and sentiments expressed.

We select the conclusion of the address, because it applies to the circumstances in which the nation is now involved with Mexico,—and upon which, it is important, in the highest degree, both with respect to our duty to God and man, that the people should have just perceptions of their duty.

We regret that so good an address should be marred, as this is, by gross typographical blunders, and worse printing.

Our extracts are as follows: "Nobly now believes in 'the divine right of kings.' But in rejecting this dogma we do not run into another extreme not less dangerous: Is there nothing divine in human government? Is its authority derived from the social compact, or only shaped and limited by it? The Bible teaches that God is the fountain whence all legitimate authority among men has been derived, and that it ought to be exercised according to that law, which, like the law of God, is 'not written on brass, but eternal and unchangeable, the law of right and reason, in which the Almighty Ruler of the Universe expressed his will, and in reference to which, Burke, in his speech against Warren Hastings, uses this glowing language: 'He have arbitrary power! My lords, the East India Company, have not arbitrary power to give him; the King has no arbitrary power to give him; your lordships have not; nor the common law; nor the whole legislature. We have no arbitrary power to give, because arbitrary power is a thing which neither any man can hold nor any man can give. No man can lawfully govern himself according to his own will, much less can one person be governed by the will of another. We are all born in subjection, all born equally, high and low, governors and governed; in subjection to one great, immutable pre-existent law, prior to all our devices, and prior to all our contrivances, paramount to all our ideas, and all our sensations, antecedent to our very existence, by which we are knit and connected in the eternal frame of the universe, out of which we cannot stir.'"

Young gentlemen, I advise you to remember what you have been taught on this momentous subject, and, if you approve of it, to teach it, in your turn, to others. It is this, that government is to be regarded with reverence, I will say with a religious reverence, as being 'ordained of God,' to interpret and execute, to a certain extent the eternal law of righteousness. The subject has the right to interpret it also. The right is inalienable and cannot be surrendered. But here is the difference. The presumption of right is always on the side of the Government: and the burden of proof to the contrary lies upon the subject. The subject is bound to obey, unless he can show, that the Government is not the Government of the Supreme law. That no authority can make law. Rather than let death—let all that human cruelty can inflict—be endured. Let there be a temple to justice in your hearts, my young friends. Worship in it continually: and respect 'the powers that be,' but not with blind reverence: respect them, but respect justice more.

The voice that said, 'Let there be light,' said also, 'Let there be civil government in the world to be for lights of salvation to men. When they do not answer this end, they become extinct; they perish; the Almighty in his wrath destroys them; they destroy themselves. Mankind naturally respect justice, and love peace; and when a people, calling themselves a nation, are turbulent and restless, committing wrongs and violence among themselves and upon their neighbors,—these neighbors say to them, and after due forbearance have a right to say to them, you are not a government, but a lawless mob, and we will sweep you off, as an intolerable nuisance, from the face of the earth. War is, indeed, the greatest of natural evils. But for government to suffer the claims of justice to be set aside by violence, would be something worse. It would be morally wrong. And, in a case where justice and expediency both require it, a nation rising in arms to vindicate its rights, as in the war of our Revolution, and a specific moral grant, which is sometimes needed to keep alive and in its vigor a sense of justice in the minds of men.

On some occasion the gallant Decatur offered a toast something like this: 'Our country: In her transactions with foreign nations, may she always be in the right: but, our country, right or wrong.' Taking it altogether, the last clause being mitigated by the first, this toast was not unworthy the patriot who uttered it. But, our country, right or wrong, in him as an officer of the Navy. But though sailors and soldiers may be excused from judging of the justice of the acts and policy of the government, the citizens are not. But the toast has been spoiled: for convenience the first and purest part of it has been dropped, the last only having been adopted into use; which, taken alone, and by itself, expresses a sentiment fit only for the mouth of the abject slave of arbitrary power, who has no higher rule of action than the authority of his master. Such a 'country, right or wrong,' is a sentiment as adverse to patriotism as it is to justice. He best loves his country who is most anxious that she be always in the right, and does the most to effect this object, knowing that whenever, in her general course of policy, she places herself in opposition to right, she is on the way to ruin.

The citizens of this Union are placed under the most solemn responsibilities. If the government is in their own hands, and they are bound to take care that its measures be just and right. That they may discharge this obligation, much knowledge and constant vigilance are necessary. The obligation increases with our national growth, which is rapid beyond example. Since our beginning as a nation three fourths of a century have not yet elapsed, and we have already attained to a degree of greatness and power surpassed by but two or three of the oldest and most prosperous kingdoms of the world. Let justice guide this nation, and it will flourish and remain forever, and be a source of innumerable blessings to the human race. Let justice guide this nation, and whenever it strikes an enemy a moral force will attend the blow; and an approving world—Heaven itself—will say to the sufferers,

"Blessed justice movest, et non cœlestem divos." Though our history of a nation is yet short, we can appeal to it for signal proofs that it has been governed by a high sense of right, tempered by a wise moderation, in its intercourse with foreign powers. While yet in its infancy it struck, with its little right arm, the Navy, a blow on the distant coast of the Mediterranean, which caused the piratical Barbary States to respect its rights." When, by the operation of the

British Orders in Council, and the Berlin and Milan Decrees of Napoleon.

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Before thy face. Yes! The Prophecy has been fulfilled, and continues to be fulfilled, from age to age, to all people, to every nation, and to every man. Mercy and Truth: Heralds of the Eternal! radiant with his glory,—this guilty world directing its anxious look heavenward, saw your downward flight—saw your breathing love, that you should the message which ye brought from the Throne on high,—"Peace on earth, good will towards men." "Be wise now, therefore, O ye kings; be instructed ye judges of the earth." "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son lest he be angry and ye perish from the way."

The Rulers of nations must, in their administration of affairs, have a regard to mercy, then. But in the vision of war there is no room for mercy, either for friend or foe. Both wither and melt away in his fiery breath. Both, "in one our burial shroud," form the offering to his shrine. Both cut short the term of their probation at his merciless command.

But the time for mercy is before war. War is the judgment. True, indeed. Yes: so it is. Then, all that can fairly be demanded in any case, is that the claims of mercy be extended before an appeal to arms be made. This demand the people have a right to make, and they will make it, and they make it now, not in the heat and jealousy of party feeling, but in the spirit of freedom, and yet with a patriotic sympathy in favor of their own government—cool, calm, serious and earnest. The people ask, and they have a right to be informed, whether as much care has been taken to avoid a rupture with a weak distracted sister republic, as was taken to avoid one, in the case of a powerful monarchy. Herein lies but reasonable to make allowance in favor of our Government, on one account, which may be set forth more briefly in figure than otherwise.

Young gentlemen, the Lion is more tractable than the Cur; and knows better how to deal with him. The wifery annoys you in many ways, darting out at you from his covert,—annoying you by his looks, by your heels,—and, then, should be mad, the consequence would be terrible to think of. But the lion, the British lion at any rate, never was known to have the hydrophobia. Lord Ashburton brought him over lately to Washington: and the royal brute behaved himself remarkably well,—very differently, indeed, from his manner when rampant thereabouts, some thirty years before. On this occasion he was kept in a lamb; lay along on the carpet of the White House; and even the ladies sported with his mane and patted his huge sides with their pretty palms. Once, indeed, when "fifty-four, forty!" was shouted in the Capitol, and there was something said about annexing Canada in another war, he raised himself a little, opened his mouth wide enough to show the "chastity" of his teeth, and stretched out a paw some thought he even growled. But his temper being asked what it meant, said it was only a coincidence, or, at worst, he was but yawning. There was no difficulty with him at all, and he went quickly home—to lick opium. But the wifery—or, worse, a pack of wifery—do not can hardly say how they should be treated—what to do with them. Ordinarily it is not worth while to mind them; but then if one is forced to it, the best way is to do the work effectually, break up the kennel and hang the last cur.

Young gentlemen: You will leave this seat of learning shortly—with our best wishes and prayers for your welfare. You cannot command what is commonly understood by success in life. But, with the help of God, you can live virtuously, which is better. Go, then, to the employments in life which you may choose; be diligent in them; and, in all your conduct, be governed by pure sentiments of duty, blended with sound sense, and adorned with courteous manners. Let your care be to know and do your duty in all its extent; and leave it to Divine Providence to dispose of your parting counsel to you, my dear young friends. The latter part of it is so finely set forth in a short extract from "Luther's Table Talk," that I shall quote it in conclusion. "This evening he saw a bird sitting on a tree. 'This little bird,' said he, 'has taken his evening meal, and he will sleep in safety. He troubles himself not; he cares not for the morrow; just as David speaks of the man who dwelt under the shadow of the Almighty, he sits contentedly upon his twig, and lets God care for him.' Adieu.

From Mexico.

Correspondence of the State Sentinel.

NATIONAL BRIDGE, Mexico, 24th Sept. 1847. Sir—General Lane's brigade has proceeded on its far route to the capital of Mexico. Its entire force about three thousand men, which with the necessary train of wagons, forms a line of over two miles. Very little opposition yet, except ambuscades and guerrilla parties; the whole country swarms with these. The features of the country favor this mode of attack, being covered with dense and luxuriant undergrowth, intersected with deep ravines and narrow passes. The march of a large force through such a country, even in Mexico, is dangerous; in some countries it would be impracticable. From indications now to be mistaken, General Lane has reason to expect an attack at or near Cerro Gordo; he also found it necessary to send back to Vera Cruz for some more wagons, and an additional supply of ammunition. In the mean time he resolves to proceed, and divided his brigade in the following order: five companies of the 4th Indiana regiment, to wit: A, B, C, D and E, the entire Ohio regiment, two companies of regular infantry, four pieces of artillery, with the necessary train of wagons, in all about two thousand men. The balance of the brigade, consisting of five companies of 4th Indiana regiment, to wit: F, G, H, I, K, also Capt. Summons's battalion, Capt. Lewis's dragoons, with the train expected from Vera Cruz, in all about eight hundred men, under the command of Major W. W. McCreary. Should any fighting place take which is very likely, the major will have an opportunity of adding a laurel to the civic wreath that now so worthily adorns his brow. The second day of our march from Vera Cruz an attack of lancets was made on our front. The Texan Rangers who led the van, attended to their cases—killed seven, the balance ran off. I remarked the coolness, courage and self-possession depicted in Major McCreary's countenance, as galloping along the line he formed the square to receive the lancets, &c. &c. exclaimed, "Now, my brave boys, show yourselves men!" It so happened that our preparation was useless for that time. Next day however, Lieut. Cline, of the Louisiana dragoons, was shot through the head, by an ambuscade—he died instantly; his company then forming the rear guard. No positive information from General Scott, except that a great deal of hard fighting had been done—that the enemy invariably got badly whipped. What the effect of these repeated whippings will be upon the feelings (either physical or moral) of the Mexican people pressing them to peace, I cannot even conjecture. Lieut. Cline, was a difficult problem to solve, and General Lane and his brigade will likely have an opportunity of "working it out." Your friend and RE-PORTER IN MEXICO.

FIFTH REGIMENT.—The election of field officers took place on the 22d inst. James H. Lane, of course, was elected Colonel. We learn from the Madison Courier that Capt. Allen May, of the Montgomery Boys, was elected Lieut. Col., and Mr. Myers Major. Major Gen. Butler has issued a general order, from which we make the following extracts:

The 5th Indiana, Colonel Lane, will embark at Madison on the 31st inst., with thirty-two days' rations, and on reaching Louisville, will receive arms, accoutrements, and any camp equipment that may be lacking, from the depot at that place.

On reaching New Orleans, the superior officer on each boat will report his arrival to the chief of the quartermaster's department at that place, who will furnish the vessels necessary for crossing the Gulf, and designate the place at which the troops and stores will be transhipped.

If practicable, no portions of the troops will be landed before reaching Vera Cruz; but should it become necessary, they will under no circumstances be permitted to enter the city of New Orleans.

So soon as the transshipment is completed, each vessel will proceed direct to Vera Cruz without further orders, and the superior officer will report to the commanding officer at the place, and receive his orders for the time being, should the commanding General not have arrived.—*N. A. Democrat*, Oct. 28.

A VETERAN.—John Van Hoozer, now living in Sullivan county, Tenn., is 114 years of age, and has voted at every Presidential election that has been held in the United States.

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